



## **FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Of The Board of Directors**

**March 06, 2023**

Location: *Felton Fire Station Meeting Room*, 131 Kirby St, Felton California

ZoomOption:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89633355715?pwd=cGEzYIRsR3BORHZyRktjek1tMVZQUT098>

#### **1.0 Convene Meeting:**

**1.1 Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.3 Roll Call:** Directors C. Foreman (remote), R. Gelini, J. Anderson, N. Crandell (remote),  
D. Ladd

Staff: Chief Gray, L. Dennis

Absent: none

Guests: Paul Izor, Adam Hensleigh

**1.4 Approve meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 06, 2023.**

Regular meeting minutes approved as written on motion by Director Foreman and second by Director Gelini and passed.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Gelini, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

**1.5 Considerations of Additions to the Agenda:** Chief Gray requested an addition under new business for the LAFCO ballot to nominate a Special District seat member.

**2.0 Public Comment:** Paul Izor and Adam Hensleigh were attending the meeting to listen. They are both Mount Hermon residence, and are working on Fire Wise certification. They plan to meet with the Chief to discuss.

**3.0 Public Hearing:** None

**4.0 Directors Reports:** Director Anderson reported LAFCO met last Wednesday, it was their first in-person meeting. They welcomed some new members including Cummings and Hernandez. Branciforte and Scotts Valley Fire discussions are still ongoing. They are waiting on costs for a bond measure, which would be to keep the station open. Board members

discussed the pros and cons as how each of the options related to expenses and response times. He added that LAFCO is still compiling information on their Fire Study.

**5.0 Staff Report:** Chief Gray highlighted some of the items from his report sent out earlier today.

-it's been a busy month administratively dealing with the IRS Audit and grants. There were 60 calls in February, mostly medical and one structure fire.

-Training has been on ropes. It's been challenging due to wet weather and the cold, so some has been conducted indoors. The new firefighters are progressing well in their training academy. Chief mentioned that a county firefighter passed away a couple of weekends ago during the BFFA training. He helped coordinate a debrief/ counseling at the High School for the BFFA participants to attend.

-Looking at alternate sources for a chassis as QTAC is still pending production for the Type 6. Waiting for some responses back.

- 2310 and 2311 had their annual service/ inspections completed, as well as some minor repairs. 2310 has had a number of issues, most seem to be related to the increased electronics in the newer apparatus.

- Fire Prevention- he's been working with Adam Hensleigh on ideas. Met with the Mount Hermon Association.

- EMTs, the four new ones, are more than half way through their training and are anxious to begin responding.

## **6.0 Unfinished Business:**

### **6.1 Strategic planning process update**

Chief Gray stated he's completed several more pages. He feels it is just about ready to bring to the board, he'll be meeting again with Director Crandell. Director Foreman offered templates or any other help, as Sonoma County is going through this same process right now. Chief stated he's using a model after Crescent City, who is similar in size.

### **6.2 IRS Audit process and Congressional enquiry**

Chief Gray – as of Friday the Congressional inquiry is still in process at Panetta's office. He hopes to hear something on the status by the end of this week. Director Crandell added more explanation of this appeal process regarding this audit for the public members at the meeting.

### **6.3 ERAF and Prop 172 funds**

Chief provided a document with historical contribution information for the past 20 years. The Chiefs are still trying to meet with State representative Gail Pellerin to

discuss options for additional funding for fire districts. Director Anderson explained that Prop 172 was originally intended for Fire and Police, but has ended up going primarily to Police. Chief Gray added they have approached the County CAO many times to negotiate changing the percentages and have repeatedly been told no. Chief Gray added that this is a State-level fight now. He will update the board on any future progress or news.

## **7.0 New Business:**

### **7.1 SAFER grant for training officer position- discussion and possible action.**

Chief Gray stated he is drowning administratively mainly in recruitment and retention, and training. He met with his officers to discuss what they felt would help retain staff. It was determined the SAFER grant sounded like the best option. We are meeting training standards, but don't have the ability to provide specialized additional training. He explained what the SAFER grant covers related to salary and benefits.

Chief Gray provided a proposal for a Grant Funded Training Officer. This would be a full-time position. At the end of the grants three years, the district must sustain the position. The SAFER grant application is due by March 17. He suggests we apply anyway, and if we were to receive it then decide whether to move forward and accept. Director Gelini asked if we had this person and they left after a year, what happens. Chief Gray stated it's transferable.

Chief Gray offered the other option would be a stipend per month, say \$800. Some discussion followed. Director Foreman thinks it's worthwhile to throw our hat in the ring and apply, it couldn't hurt. Chief Gray also suggested in the meantime we look for the Volunteer Training Coordinator for the stipend position. Director Crandell asked if this position would be less than 40 hours. Chief responded not necessarily, they would be coordinating and helping. Chief explained that he also is looking for the help in the clear pathways being built for advancement amongst staff, from Engineers clear up to Chief.

Director Ladd expressed his concern about the impacts on PERS for the grant position. Chief stated there would be no impact for the stipend position. Director Anderson questioned whether a training person is really the best person to improve things for the Chief, who echoed he needs the administrative help and has no weekends any more. Director Anderson reiterated he has talked about finding the Chief help with him, but would like to consider something more sustainable, and possibly look at the people we have now and how to use them.

Director Foreman added that three years goes by very fast, as the term of the grant would. We are hemorrhaging now, so a grant might only be a band-aid for now to infuse the district with some funds. We need to analyze the impacts more closely.

Director Anderson said he supports applying for the grant, but added he agrees we need to look at this more closely.

Chief stated he is looking for supports from the group for the stipend position search, and in the meantime submit the grant application and see what happens.

Director Foreman made a motion to support the Chiefs plan, and Director Gelini seconded.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Crandell, Gelini, and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion carried.

Director Anderson directed the Chief to advertise for the stipend position.

## **7.2 2023 LAFCO ballot for Special District regular member seat**

Director Anderson described the membership of LAFCO and added information about the two candidates, Rachel Lather-incumbent and James Joseph Gallagher, for the open Special District seat. Director Gelini asked Director Anderson if he had a recommendation, to which he replied that Rachel Lather is known and has a lot of related skills to the position.

Director Gelini stated that he would nominate Rachel Lather. Directors Ladd, Foreman and Crandell all stated they would support that nomination.

Director Anderson completed and signed the ballot, voting for Rachel Lather. Laurie will submit the ballot to LAFCO.

## **8.0 Approve paid vendor claims for the month of February 2023:** Board members reviewed the vendor claims in the amount of \$19,664.94.

Director Gelini asked about the dump bills. Chief explained that numerous trainings resulted in wood waste from the props used. We also had loads of green waste collected in order to clear road access after the storms. Chief said he's working on a project to get a burn box set up to dispose of green waste. Day Break Camp has agreed to host on their property, CalFire would provide the burn box and those to staff it. They are waiting on Air Board approval of a petition filed to allow the project. This could possibly aid the community in green waste disposal from all of the storms' debris.

Directors Ladd and Anderson asked to see one of the parkas represented in the billings to L N Curtis. Chief provided one for them.

Claims were approved as presented on motion by Director Crandell and seconded by Director Gelini.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Gelini, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

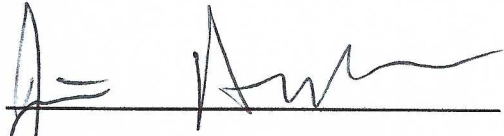
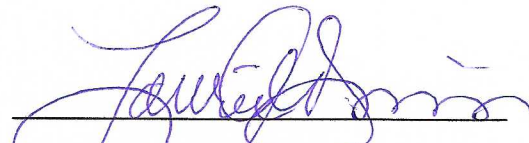
Absent: none

Motion carried.

**9.0 Closed Session: none**

**10.0 Set date for the next meeting:** The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 03, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.** The meeting will be in person at the Felton Fire Station.

**11.0 Adjourn:** Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

  
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Jim Anderson, Chairperson  
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Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary